

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the addition of “at least one nitrogen-containing reducing agent” in a) and the addition of “a hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, hydrogen, or a mixture of one more of these gases” in b) in the claimed process can be made in any order or added together to form a gas mixture. Support for this amendment is found on page 7, lines 33-36 of the present specification. Applicants believe this amendment clarifies that the claimed process does not require the addition of the “at least one nitrogen-containing reducing agent” to NO_x- and N₂O-containing gases prior to the addition of “a hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, hydrogen, or a mixture of one more of these gases.”

Furthermore, this amendment is consistent with the Examiner’s reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated February 29, 2008. In it, the Examiner stated that the claims have been allowed because claim 1 requires two distinct steps for adding reducing agent, whereas the cited reference, WO 01/51182 A1 to Schwefer et al. (See U.S. Patent App. Pub No. 2003/0143142 A1), teaches only a single step of adding a reducing agent. Claim 1, as amended, retains this distinction inasmuch as it still requires the addition of two distinct reducing agents. As such, no new matter or issues are presented by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendment.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this amendment. However, if a fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 09600-00023-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 25, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendment After Allowance Dated March 25, 2008

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